

Comments concerning Docket A2011-34,
Innis, Louisiana Post Office

All facts of this case should have been considered. The fact is that virtually none of the relevant facts of the situation regarding the Innis Post Office were considered before the proposed decision was made to close the Innis Post Office.

As evidence, the following is offered:

1. At the open hearing held by the Post Office in February 2011, several statistics concerning the Innis Post Office were quoted. These statistics were obviously skewed toward minimizing the Innis Post Office operation to support its demise. No research had been done to show why these statistics exist.
2. It could be conjectured that the Innis Post Office service was allowed by USPS management to degenerate while permitting an inept, inattentive postal worker to operate the unit for some three years prior to the past year. During this period when service deteriorated to such a low level, several patrons took their postal business to adjacent geographic post offices, thus causing the Innis Post Office to lose business while others gained. An investigation into the facts of the case would likely show this to be factual. Without such an investigation, however, the true facts may never be known. To propose closing the Innis Post Office without the benefit of knowing ALL the facts is a disservice to all USPS patrons.
3. Concerning statistics, when asked if similar statistics were available for the two closest adjoining Post Offices, Lettsworth and Batchelor, none were available. None have since been provided. If someone were expecting to make a learned, considered decision about closing post offices, shouldn't ALL the facts, including those of adjacent area post offices be considered? When choices must be made, how else can one decide which Post Office needs to be closed?
4. Apparently no on-site inspection of the surrounding villages, along with Innis, was made. It would be obvious to even the most casual observer, that there is more population, commerce and civic activity in Innis than either of Batchelor or Lettsworth. Innis has two grocery stores, a hardware/ lumberyard, Doctor/ Dentist office facilities, town hall meeting facility, volunteer fire department facility and headquarters and Parish library, along with several "brick and mortar" homes within yards of the existing stand-alone Innis Post Office.

Lettsworth has a botanical (flower and tree) nursery, a service station and a stand-alone Post Office. Batchelor has a service station/ grocery store, a Parish Co-op and a plastics manufacturing plant. The Batchelor Post Office is housed within the same building as the service station/ grocery store.

Not having available what the cost/ revenue statistics are for Lettsworth and Batchelor post offices, it is likely that the majority of revenue for the Batchelor Post Office is derived from the mail sent from and delivered to the plastics manufacturing plant there. Without, applicable cost/ revenue statistics, this writer has no idea of the source of revenue for the Lettsworth post office.

An on-site inspection of all three sites and surrounding areas should be made. All pertinent cost/ revenue data for all three sites should be considered, weighed and compared economically to make a

learned decision about which post office(s) should be closed.

5. Innis is rather centrally located between Batchelor to the south and Lettsworth to the north, approximately three and four miles, respectively. Rural postal routes from either Batchelor or Lettsworth terminate within blocks of the crossroads at Innis. Over many years, these routes have been allowed to encroach on what would logically be Innis "postal jurisdiction", had common sense and proper cost control management been implemented.

All of these facts lead to the logical conclusion that a wrong decision is about to be made by proposing the closing of the Innis Post Office. I believe that statistics would show the proper decision would be to consolidate and merge the Batchelor and Lettsworth post offices into the Innis Post Office, closing both Batchelor and Lettsworth post offices. This would accomplish several objectives.

Admittedly, without having ALL the vital cost statistics involving the Batchelor, Lettsworth and Innis post offices, opponents of the Innis Post Office closing are at a distinct disadvantage. However, common sense should reveal that the proper action to take, given the overwhelming circumstances, would be that at least twice as much money would be saved by the USPS by merging Batchelor and Lettsworth post offices into one centrally located Post Office at Innis. If common sense is not used, at least the USPS should make available ALL the facts and figures of costs/ revenues associated with the comparison of the three facilities so that an intelligent decision can be made based on ALL the facts.

I petition and request the USPS to re-consider the proposed closing of the Innis, Louisiana 70747 Post Office for all of the above reasons and to consider closing the Batchelor and Lettsworth post offices instead.

Yours truly,

Donald E. Fetzer, Sr.
8869 Louisiana Highway 418
Innis, Louisiana 70747